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STATE FOR EUR/WE, WHA/CCA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EINT PREL ECON TINT CU NL

SUBJECT: CUBA AND INTERNET FREEDOM: DUTCH CONCUR WITH USG

POSITION

REF: STATE 89911

11. Econoff delivered on July 10 reftel points regarding the Cuban government's role in the poor state of Cuban internet access to Wim Rullens of the Coordination, Strategy, and International Affairs Directorate, Directorate General for Energy and Telecom, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs.

- 12. In a subsequent discussion July 18, Rullens agreed that Cuban government controls and "poor handling" of internet freedom, not USG sanctions, were behind the poor state of internet access in Cuba. Rullens asked whether the USG tracked Cuban internet users visiting USINT Havana. He added that the issue of internet freedom and our activities in Cuba could be discussed at the second Internet Governance Forum to occur in Rio de Janeiro November 12-15.
- 13. Rullens said he would share the information provided with counterparts at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and investigate whether the Dutch Embassy provided internet access to Cubans. Post will follow up and report on any substantive information received or actions taken.

  GALLAGHER